Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 /064 R

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P 311857Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAGR, EAID, EEC, EG

SUBJECT:EC FOOD AID TO EGYPT

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 3048, (B) EC BRUSSELS 2000, (C) CAIRO 5158 (D) STATE 63355 (E) CAIRO 5418

- 1. FOR EC BRUSSELS: YOU MAY INFORM EC COMMISSION THAT USG HAS NO OBJECTION TO EC SUPPLYING 75,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT TO EGYPT AS OUTLINED IN REF A.
- 2. YOU SHOULD STATE IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, THAT USG IS PUZZLED OVER THE PROPOSED 2.8 MILLION TON UMR. VE HAD BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LED TO BELIEVE THAT EC WAS CONSIDERING A MUCH LOWER UMR FOR 1977/78. ALSO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED US THAT BECAUSE OF ITS PRESENT EXTREME ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES IT WISHED ITSELF TO OBTAIN A CONSIDERABLY LOWER UMR FOR 1977/78. THE USG IS SYMPATHETIC TO THIS DESIRE. THIS BEING THE CASE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO DELAY AGREEMENT ON A WHEAT UMR FOR 1977/78 PENDING

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THAT SUBJECT BETWEEN THE EC AND THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. FOR CAIRO: IF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, IN FACT, WANTS TO OBTAIN A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER UMR FOR 1977/78, IT

SHOULD MAKE THIS DESIRE VERY PLAIN TO EC AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

- 4. FYI. APPARENT ANOMALY MENTIONED BY MOLINIER IN PARA 1 OF REF C, I.E. EXTRA 150,000 METRIC TONS SHOWN AS BEING SUPPLIED BY EC IN CALENDAR YEAR 1977 (PARA 1 B OF REF D), RESULTS FROM SHOWING WHEN PROPOSED EC ASSISTANCE COULD BEST BE SUPPLIED RATHER THAN LIMITING CHART TO ALREADY AGREED TO ASSISTANCE.
- 5. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE HAVE ADVISED US THAT GOE HAD MADE OFFICIAL REQUEST THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVE AT EC BRUSSELS FOR LOWER UMR FOR FISCAL YEAR 1978. FIGURE MENTIONED WAS 1.6 MILLION METRIC TONS GRAIN EQUIVALENT. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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